

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 15 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 15 are amended; Claims 2-3, 7, 11 and 12 are canceled; and no claims are added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7, 11-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-10 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,252,989 to Geisler in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,956,958 to Fan; and Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Geisler and Fan and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,947,572 to Terasaki.

With respect to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 15 are amended and Claims 2-3, 7, 11 and 12 are canceled by the present amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under § 112, first and second paragraphs is respectfully requested.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or render obvious the claimed features of an embedding unit that embeds the compressed image data in the first image data to thereby generate an embedded image data, a third converter that subjects the embedded image data to the high-resolution image conversion to thereby generate a high resolution image data, an extractor that extracts an embedded data from the embedded image data, an embedding determiner that determines whether embedded data has been embedded in the image data, a decompressor that decompresses the embedded data extracted by the extractor to thereby generate a decompressed image data, and an adding unit that conducts adding operation by adding the

high resolution image data to the decompressed image data, wherein the adding unit conducts the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has been embedded in the image data, and wherein the adding unit does not conduct the adding operation when the embedding determiner determines that embedded data has not been embedded in the image data, as recited in Claim 1 and similarly recited in Claims 4-6, 13 and 15.

In contrast, Geisler discusses a starting image 60 that is filtered and then down-sampled by a factor of two in each dimension to obtain a smaller, lower-resolution image 62. The down-sampled image 62 is interpolated to obtain a larger, lower resolution image 64. The low resolution image is subtracted from the starting image 60 to obtain a difference image 66. The thresholded image is then quantized to obtain additional data compression.

Fan does not make up for the deficiencies of Geisler discussed above nor does the Office Action assert as much. In particular, Fan merely discloses that color information and registration information are extracted from an original image and the extracted color information and registration information are encoded in a digital watermark associated with the original image. As shown in Figure 1, the original image is provided and the color information and registration information is extracted from the original image. Extracted color information and registration information is encoded in a watermark and associated with the original image. The digital watermark is retrieved and decoded. If the retrieved embedded color information has been compressed, it is decompressed. The scanned image is aligned with the original image using the registration information carried by the watermark.

Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion for the features of the claimed invention discussed above. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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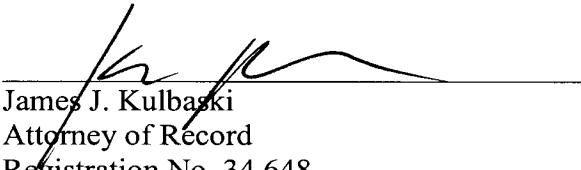
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